



United States Military Academy Band
West Point, New York 10996



West Point Percussion Group

The newly formed West Point Percussion Group is comprised of members from both the concert band and field music group of The United States Military Academy Band. The ensemble performs a variety of music, including standard and contemporary percussion literature, as well as compositions unique to the heritage of West Point. The West Point Percussion Group is dedicated to educating and entertaining its audiences through the energy of its music.

The members of the West Point Percussion Group are musicians in the United States Military Academy Band, and are active duty military personnel. Prior to being permanently assigned to West Point, they studied at respected conservatories and universities, taught in public schools, and served with other military bands. Each was selected for duty at West Point through a highly competitive audition process against applicants from across the United States and beyond. Proudly representing the United States Military Academy Band, the members of the West Point Percussion Group are dedicated to the highest standards of artistry.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ERIC SHEFFLER is a native of Kansas. He returned to the Academy Band in January of 2002 serving as a Rudimental Drummer in the Hellcats. Beginning in the summer of 2004, SFC Sheffler assumed the duties of Drum Major. He previously served in the Hellcats from 1983-1994 and was the assistant drum major of the marching band as well. While away from West Point, SFC Sheffler completed his Masters Degree in Percussion Performance at Pittsburg State University. He also taught classes in percussion techniques, applied percussion, music fundamentals, basic conducting, wind ensemble, and marching band. Additionally, SFC Sheffler is an adjunct faculty member at Marist College and a freelance percussion arranger for competitive marching bands throughout the Midwest.

STAFF SERGEANT C. MICHAEL HOOKE joined the Academy's Hellcats in September of 2002, after completing four and a half years of service in the Marine Corps Band in Quantico, Virginia. While in Virginia SSG Hooke recorded television and radio commercials for various productions including The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, Sony XM Radio, and Cub Cadet. Before serving in the Marine Corps, Mike was a member of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, while receiving his Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance from Louisiana State University. Originally from Woodbridge, Virginia, he

frequently travels home as well as across the East coast performing with his hip-hop band, Slipdisk, which is based out of the Washington DC metro area.

STAFF SERGEANT RONE SPARROW is originally from Fairfield, California. He earned a Bachelors degree in percussion performance and pedagogy from Brigham Young University (1997) and a Masters degree in percussion performance from The University of North Texas (2000). While at North Texas, SSG Sparrow taught percussion methods classes, directed percussion ensembles, instructed in the percussion studio, and was the coordinator for the UNT Green Brigade drum line. SSG Sparrow's diverse freelance career includes performances with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Sundance Summer Theater, The Drifters, The Jerry Floor Big Band, and The Walt Disney Corporation. SSG Sparrow joined the USMA Band in August 2002 and has been featured with the band on steel pans, piano, and mallet percussion.